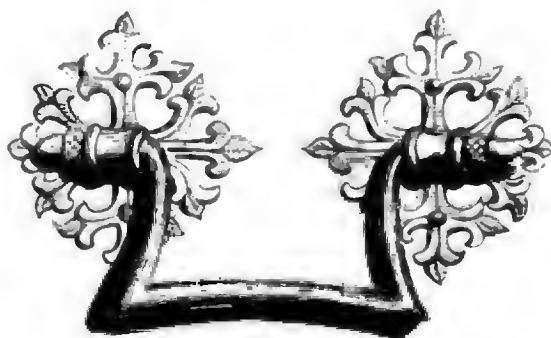


MEDIEVAL IRONWORK: HANDLE FROM COLOGNE.



FROM THE TOWNHALL.



FROM ST. MARIA CAPITOLINI.

GOTHIC STAIRCASE AT ANTWERP.

SEVERAL years have passed since we were last in Antwerp, yet our recollections of it are as vivid as if we had returned but yesterday. The wonderful pictures with which it is filled, its noble churches, and the picturesque effect produced by every street, are not easily forgotten.

A short time ago we mentioned a few of the churches, and gave a representation of some of the more modern carved wood-work in the cathedral.*

In Antwerp may be seen some of the finest of Rubens' works,—the prodigal king of colourists,—and his old leather chair stands in the museum there, with an ondyving wreath upon it. When you go to that museum, good reader, and you may do so, and see much besides, for less than a week at one of our temporary watering places will cost you—do not fail to look at some early sketches by Rubens, with his intentions, as to the pictures, written upon them, also his "Adoration of the Magi," and "Christ in the Arms of his Father," "The Fall of the Rebellious Angels," by Floris, with the bee painted on it by Matsys, the "blacksmith," is full of imagination, and there are several wonderful pictures by Vanduyke, the elder Franck, and others.†

In the gardens of the museum is a tomb over the remains of Corneille de Vrindt, sculptor and architect, who built the Hotel de Ville. There are also mural inscriptions to several other artists, including one, if we may trust our notes, to Appellmann, architect of the cathedral, who died in 1434.

The exchange, or Bourse, erected at the beginning of the sixteenth century, served as the model for Sir Thomas Gresham's exchange in London. The open quadrangle which it forms is about 180 feet long and 140 feet broad, and has around it a covered walk, enclosed by curiously sculptured columns and trefoil arches, which carry the upper part of the structure. The columns are octagonal, curiously sculptured, and have good bases and caps, but the trefoil arches and the groining of the covered way are what would be called in England, "Churchwarden's Gothic."

This brings us to the subject of our illustration. Adjoining to the Bourse there are three Gothic staircases, all upon the same principle, but having each different details. They are interesting examples, and the most perfect of them is represented by the annexed engraving, from a sketch made for us last summer.

MEDIEVAL IRONWORK.

We have often had occasion, in the course of this publication, to call attention to examples of elegant metallic works executed by the artificers of the middle ages. A fine specimen was recently engraved from Abbey Dore, in Herefordshire, with many capital specimens in the previous volume; and we now add the accompanying handles from Cologne. The first is a handle with a small escutcheon, on one of the doors of the Town Hall, and is an interesting design, visible in Memish iron-work of the fifteenth century, of which many fine specimens exist in the low countries. The second is a horizontal handle upon the door of the Church of St. Maria Capitolini; the ends of the handle after they pass through the staples terminate in acorns; the small escutcheons are elegantly foliated, the main design being grounded on the cross crosslet of heraldry.

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

It is proposed to build a new mechanics' institution at Ipswich.—The extension work at the west end of Yarmouth-pier is on the eve of completion. The principal breakwater, it is thought, will be a sufficient one, but doubts are entertained of the smaller. All the defective work has been repiled, and is expected to last for forty years. An additional expenditure of 400*l.* or 500*l.* about the north pier is looked forward to in the ensuing summer.—The new Post Office at Leicester is nearly finished. It is considered to be rather ornamental, which is more than can be said of many provincial post-offices.—The ancient church at Cranoe, says the *Leicester Journal*, has for some time past been in a very dangerous and dilapidated state, owing to the sinking of the foundation. Means for its restoration are much required. The congregation have altogether deserted it, the incumbent performing divine worship in the large school-room recently erected by the Earl of Cardigan.—Damages to the extent of 25,000*l.* for the intentional dilapidation of Kinterton Hall, and destruction of its ornamental timber, have been obtained at law by the Duke of Leeds against the executors of his own father, who was held to have no right to "do what he liked with his own," as the property was his only so long as he lived, having only, in short, a life-interest in it.—It is proposed to erect a building at Sheffield sufficiently commodious for the fourfold purposes of an atheosom, a school of design, a mechanics' institute, and a philosophical

society.—It is considered that a cathedral that will do credit to Manchester and its bishop expectant cannot be completed under 100,000*l.*; and it is hence proposed, that in the meantime not more than the chancel and two transepts, with the central tower to unite the nave and chancel with the transepts, be attempted; these, with a peal of ten bells, to cost about 50,000*l.* This sum it is proposed to raise by 100 individuals contributing 500*l.* each, whilst subscriptions in smaller sums are being raised for the erection of the nave. The site proposed is the high ground at Chetwood, rather towards Broughton. The *Manchester Courier* says:—"We apprehend that, for a work of such magnitude, these suggestions are on a reduced scale. To build a cathedral worthy of such a see as Manchester,—for the extent of country over which its jurisdiction will extend, and embracing Manchester, Liverpool, Bolton, Rochdale, Oldham, Ashton-under-Lyne, Bury, and other large towns, incomparably the wealthiest ecclesiastical districts in Great Britain,—one hundred and fifty thousand pounds would be required to be raised. There ought to be no difficulty in accomplishing this, simply by the plan suggested; and a well digested and perfectly organised system, kindred in method and in spirit with that by which Solpice Boisseree has succeeded in recommending the works (after a lapse of six centuries) for the completion of the Cathedral of Cologne, could not possibly fail to have its due effect upon the munificence of English wealth and the piety of a purer form of Christianity than that which the *Dombau Verein* (or Cathedral Building Society of Cologne) approved in."

—The Birmingham brass-founders, and other staple trades there, have been of late in a somewhat depressed state, but, according to the *Sheffield Iris*, "the wire-drawers are fully employed, and have been so for some time"; large quantities of their material having been required during the last few months in the construction of the electric telegraph along the various lines of railway in different parts of the country; and, as a proof of the quantity of iron now required for this novelty, it may be mentioned that, during the last twelve months the contractors to the company (resident in the town) have supplied for that purpose, in the country alone, many hundred tons of the wire.

—The offer of a premium by Mr. J. H. H. Foley, of Spourbridge, for the best plan of sanitary reform and improvement for that town by means of joint stock companies, was responded to by only one essay, and that not at all of the practical and comprehensive nature either intended or desired. Here, as elsewhere now, however, the expected measures of the

* Vol. IV., p. 534.
† Our note book says the museum contains 911 original pictures and 17 copies.